



OSC: Randy Nattis, Maggie Waldon EPA Region IX

Location: Haystack, NM; Navajo Nation Reservation

Deployment date/duration: 11 Aug 2014/11 days

1. Request:

EPA Region IX is requesting the Pacific Strike Team support operations in the form of real time radiation sampling, worker field dosimeter monitoring, sample collection, and health and safety management oversight of the assessment teams during the evaluation of three abandoned radioactive sights. Additionally, EPA has requested assistances with collecting over 120 subsurface samples from the three mine sites utilizing their Geo Probe soil core sampling equipment to profile the extent of subsurface contamination. Sampling in these areas will be used to justify the extent of a future planned EPA removal actions to mitigate the radioactive contamination.

2. Scope:

- a. Two PST members to mobilize EPA's GeoProbe sampling equipment from its warehouse in San Francisco to the worksite.
- b. One PST member will serve as Site Safety Officer and will be responsible for overall safety, field dosimeter tracking, monitoring/documenting of exposure levels, and ensuring proper radiation decon procedures are followed.
- c. PST will provide real time radiation monitoring instruments to survey the AUM site. Specific NSF radiation detection equipment which will be used are the Ludlum® Model 2241, NeutronRAE, and GammaRAE. PST member will also be trained to operate specialized EPA radiation detection equipment as needed.
- d. Two PST members will assist START contractor in the collection of surface and subsurface soil samples utilizing EPA's Geo Probe soil core sampling equipment to characterize the subsurface contaminations. All sampling will be conducted according to EPA sampling procedures.
- e. The EPA OSC may use the senior qualified PST member as the Federal On-Scene Coordinator's Representative. In the absence of the OSC, this PST member will be occasionally responsible for daily operational oversight of the operations in progress, including addressing any issues that arise, communicating to the public, and supervision of all contract personnel.

3. Details:

- a. Deployment date/duration: August 11-22 / 11 day deployment
- b. Number of personnel per deployment: 2

- c. Funding Source: CERCLA; \$10,000 for NSF support (includes travel and consumables).
- d. Maritime nexus: No
- e. Media interest: low

4. Case Background:

The Haystack No.1 abandoned uranium mine site is comprised of three historically active uranium mine sites on the Navajo Nation Reservation. The Todilto Limestone deposits in this area were mined from 1950 to 1981 within the Grants Uranium District of New Mexico. A total of 120 acres is divided between the following three sites, with Haystack No. 1 (70+ acres), Section 24 (28 Acres), and Bibo Trespass (22 acres). Initial field measurements taken by a joint EPA/NSF effort in 2008 detected levels greater than 40 times the previously reported background levels for surface and sub surface gamma radiation activity.

The Haystack No.1 abandoned uranium mine and the two smaller adjacent mine sites are part of the larger Congressionally mandated, and funded, 5 year plan to assess and cleanup the abandoned uranium mines within the Navajo Nation. Uranium contamination can be found on multiple sites and the EPA has determined they pose a direct threat to public health and the environment. On this particular site, multiple residential structures are located within the site boundaries, and several others, including a church, are within 0.25 miles of the site. The entire site is also currently being used for livestock grazing which is exposing the livestock to uranium contamination.

5. Legal supporting justification:

Under the auspices of the NCP and CERCLA, the EPA has the authority to manage pollution responses within their designated zone and to utilize the technical resources (people and equipment) of all Special Teams, including the National Strike Force. In accordance with the National Contingency Plan, 40CFR300, §300.145(a)(1-3), EPA Region IX, in its capacity as a FOSC, has requested the technical assistance of the National Strike Force.

6. Justification:

Commander, National Strike Force approves this request.

This response is in accordance with the NSF special teams responsibility defined in 40 CFR 300. With documented radioactive public health hazards, this response will also build a level of proficiency within the NSF that cannot be gained through exercises and training. The NSF members supporting the EPA will gain invaluable experience in hazardous substance response, radioactive isotopic detection, safety oversight, communications, and contractor supervision. Additionally, the opportunity to support this EPA OSC is vital to strengthening partnerships

which could be used in a future WMD response case. The skill and knowledge of members deploying in support of this operation will be enhanced by the real-world application of equipment and response practices which are directly applicable to future emergency Coast Guard responses.